

(f) The Commandant will consider reductions to the number of mates required by this section when special circumstances allowing a vessel to be safely operated can be demonstrated.

[CGD 81-059, 52 FR 38652, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended by CGD 81-059, 54 FR 149, Jan. 4, 1989; CGD 81-059a, 55 FR 14805, Apr. 18, 1990; USCG-1999-6224, 64 FR 63235, Nov. 19, 1999; 66 FR 20944, Apr. 26, 2001]

§ 15.812 Pilots.

(a) Except as specified in paragraph (f) of this section, the following vessels, not sailing on register, when underway on the navigable waters of the United States, must be under the direction and control of an individual qualified to serve as pilot under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section as appropriate:

(1) Coastwise seagoing vessels propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. Chapter 33, and coastwise seagoing tank barges subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. Chapter 37;

(2) Vessels that are not authorized by their Certificate of Inspection to proceed beyond the Boundary Line established in part 7 of this Chapter which are in excess of 1,600 gross tons, propelled by machinery, and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. chapter 33; and

(3) Vessels operating on the Great Lakes that are propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. chapter 33, or are tank barges subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. chapter 37.

(b) The following individuals may serve as a pilot for a vessel subject to paragraph (a) of this section, when underway on the navigable waters of the United States that are designated areas.

(1) An individual holding a valid first class pilot's license issued by the Coast Guard, operating within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as pilot on any vessel to which this section applies.

(2) An individual holding a valid license issued by the Coast Guard as master or mate, employed aboard a vessel within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as pilot on a vessel of not more than 1,600 gross tons propelled by machinery, described in

paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of this section, provided he or she:

(i) Is at least 21 years old;

(ii) Complies with the currency of knowledge provisions of § 10.713 of this chapter; and

(iii) Has completed a minimum of four round trips over the route to be traversed while in the wheelhouse as watchstander or observer. At least one of the round trips must be made during the hours of darkness if the route is to be traversed during darkness.

(3) An individual holding a valid license issued by the Coast Guard as master, mate, or operator employed aboard a vessel within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as pilot on a tank barge or tank barges totaling not more than 10,000 gross tons, described in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of this section, provided he or she:

(i) Is at least 21 years old;

(ii) Complies with the currency of knowledge provisions of § 10.713 of this chapter;

(iii) Has a current physical examination in accordance with the provisions of § 10.709 of this chapter;

(iv) Has at least six months service in the deck department on towing vessels engaged in towing operations; and

(v) Has completed a minimum of twelve round trips over the route to be traversed, as an observer or under instruction in the wheelhouse. At least three of the round trips must be made during the hours of darkness if the route is to be traversed during darkness.

(c) An individual holding a valid license issued by the Coast Guard as master, mate, or operator, employed aboard a vessel within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as a pilot for a vessel subject to paragraph (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, when underway on the navigable waters of the United States that are not designated as first class pilotage areas, provided he or she:

(1) Is at least 21 years old;

(2) Complies with the currency of knowledge provisions of § 10.713 of this chapter; and

(3) Has a current physical examination in accordance with the provisions of § 10.709 of this chapter.

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(d) In any instance when the qualifications of a person satisfying the requirements for pilotage through the provisions of this Subpart are questioned by the Coast Guard, the individual shall, within a reasonable time, provide the Coast Guard with documentation proving compliance with

the applicable portion(s) of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) Federal pilotage requirements contained in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are summarized in two quick reference tables.

(1) Table 15.812(e)(1) provides a guide to the pilotage requirements for inspected, self-propelled vessels.

TABLE 15.812(e)(1)—QUICK REFERENCE TABLE FOR FEDERAL PILOTAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. INSPECTED SELF-PROPELLED VESSELS, NOT SAILING ON REGISTER

	Designated areas of pilotage waters (routes for which First Class Pilot's licenses are issued)	Nondesignated areas of pilotage waters (between the three mile line and the start of traditional pilotage routes)
Inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 1,600 GT, authorized by their Certificate of Inspection (COI) to proceed beyond the Boundary Line, or operating on the Great Lakes.	First Class Pilot	Master or Mate may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old. 2. Has an annual physical exam. 3. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ¹
Inspected self-propelled vessels not more than 1,600 GT, authorized by their Certificate of Inspection to proceed beyond the Boundary Line, or operating on the Great Lakes.	First Class Pilot, or Master or Mate may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old. 2. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ¹ 3. Has 4 round trips over the route. ² First Class Pilot	Master or Mate may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old. 2. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ¹
Inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 1,600 GT, not authorized by their COI to proceed beyond the Boundary Line (Inland route vessels); other than vessels operating on the Great Lakes.	First Class Pilot	Master or Mate may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old. 2. Has an annual physical exam. 3. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ¹
Inspected self-propelled vessels not more than 1,600 GT, not authorized by their COI to proceed beyond the Boundary Line (Inland route vessels); other than vessels operating on the Great Lakes.	No pilotage requirement	No pilotage requirement.

¹One round trip within the past 60 months.

²If the route is to be traversed during darkness, 1 of the 4 round trips must be made during darkness.

(2) Table 15.812(e)(2) provides a guide to the pilotage requirements for tank barges.

TABLE 15.812(e)(2)—QUICK REFERENCE TABLE FOR FEDERAL PILOTAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. INSPECTED TANK BARGES, NOT SAILING ON REGISTER

	Designated areas of pilotage waters (routes for which First Class Pilot's licenses are issued)	Nondesignated areas of pilotage waters (between the three mile line and the start of traditional pilotage routes)
Tank Barges greater than 10,000 GT, authorized by their Certificate of Inspection to proceed beyond the Boundary Line, or operating on the Great Lakes.	First Class Pilot	Master, Mate, or Operator may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old. 2. Has an annual physical exam. ¹ 3. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ² 4. Has at least 6 months' service in the deck department on towing vessels engaged in towing.

TABLE 15.812(e)(2)—QUICK REFERENCE TABLE FOR FEDERAL PILOTAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. INSPECTED TANK BARGES, NOT SAILING ON REGISTER—Continued

	Designated areas of pilotage waters (routes for which First Class Pilot's licenses are issued)	Nondesignated areas of pilotage waters (between the three mile line and the start of traditional pilotage routes)
Tank Barges 10,000 GT or less, authorized by their Certificate of Inspection to proceed beyond the Boundary Line, or operating on the Great Lakes.	First Class Pilot, or Master, Mate, or Operator may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old 2. Has an annual physical exam. ¹ 3. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ² 4. Has at least 6 months' service in the deck department on towing vessels engaged in towing operations. 5. Has 12 round trips over the route. ³	Master, Mate, or Operator may serve as pilot if the individual: 1. Is at least 21 years old. 2. Has an annual physical exam. ¹ 3. Maintains current knowledge of the waters to be navigated. ² 4. Has at least 6 months' service in the deck department on towing vessels engaged in towing operations.
Tank Barges authorized by their Certificate of Inspection for Inland routes only (Lakes, Bays, and Sounds/Rivers); other than vessels operating on the Great Lakes.	No pilotage requirement	No pilotage requirement.

¹ Annual physical exam does not apply to an individual who will serve as a pilot of a Tank Barge of less than 1,600 gross tons.

² One round trip within the past 60 months.

³ If the route is to be traversed during darkness, 3 of the 12 round trips must be made during darkness.

(f) In Prince William Sound, Alaska, coastwise seagoing vessels over 1,600 gross tons and propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. Chapter 37 must:

(1) When operating from 60°49' North latitude to the Port of Valdez be under the direction and control of a federally licensed pilot who:

(i) Is operating under the Federal license;

(ii) Holds a license issued by the State of Alaska; and

(iii) Is not a member of the crew of the vessel.

(2) Navigate with either two licensed deck officers on the bridge or a federally licensed pilot when operating South of 60°49' North latitude and in the approaches through Hinchinbrook Entrance and in the area bounded:

(i) On the West by a line one mile west of the western boundary of the Traffic Separation Scheme;

(ii) On the East by 146°00' West longitude;

(iii) On the North by 60°49' North latitude; and

(iv) On the South by that area of Hinchinbrook Entrance within the territorial sea bounded by 60° 07' North latitude and 146°31.5' West longitude.

[CGD 84-060, 59 FR 4842, Feb. 2, 1994, as amended by CGD 84-060, 60 FR 20652, 20653, Apr. 27, 1995]

§ 15.815 Radar observers.

(a) Each person in the required complement of licensed deck individuals, including the master, on inspected vessels of 300 gross tons or over which are radar equipped, shall hold a valid endorsement as radar observer.

(b) Each person who is employed or serves as pilot in accordance with Federal law on board vessels of 300 gross tons or over which are radar equipped, shall hold a valid endorsement as radar observer.

(c) Each person having to be licensed under 46 U.S.C. 8904(a) for employment or service as master, mate, or operator on board an uninspected towing vessel of 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or more in length shall, if the vessel is equipped with radar, hold—

(1) A valid endorsement as radar observer; or,

(2) If the person holds a valid license dated before June 1, 1995, a valid certificate from a Radar-Operation course.

[CGD 81-059, 52 FR 38652, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended by CGD 94-041, 60 FR 8309, Feb. 14, 1995; CGD 95-028, 62 FR 51196, Sept. 30, 1997]

§ 15.820 Chief engineer.

(a) There must be an individual holding an appropriate license as chief engineer or a license authorizing service as chief engineer employed on board the following inspected mechanically propelled vessels: